Toronto metro

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

How to enjoy the World Cup of Hockey with Rogers.

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WORLD CUP OF HOCKEY 2016 TORONTO

Rogers NHL GameCentre LIVE™ World Cup Features

By Emily Sadler

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Where have all the birds gone?

1.5 billion birds missing from North American skies metroNEWS

Toronto metro

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Ex-UN officials call for release of Montreal academic Homa Hoodfar, jailed in Iran.

New bylaws with teeth

In 2012, a young Toronto girl was viciously mauled by a German shepherd mix. The six-year-old survived, but the attack prompted a scathing report from the municipal ombudsman, who criticized the city and its staff for how the incident was handled. Four years later, a host of changes to animal bylaws targeting dangerous dogs are being proposed. The policies will be debated at next Wednesday's licensing and standards committee meeting; here's what they would mean for dogs and their owners. **LUKE SIMCOE** METRO

Defining dangerous dogs Citing the Toronto Humane Society and research published in the Journal of Pediatrics, city staff note dogs that are tethered for long periods of time are more likely to act aggressively or bite. As a result, the report suggests limiting the amount of time dogs can be tethered outside to a maximum of three hours per day. Owners would also be prohibited from tethering dogs with choke collars, or any collars with chains or prongs.

Tethering rules The city's municipal licensing and standards department is proposing a separate bylaw category for dogs deemed to be "dangerous," defined as a dog that has "severely" bitten a person or another domestic animal, bitten or attacked a person or animal more than once, or that is already the subject of muzzle order. Dangerous dogs would be banned from off-leash areas in dog parks and required to be leashed and muzzled at all times when in public. They would also need to be microchipped and required to wear a dangerous dog tag.

Increased fines At present, the fine for most dog-related offences, including having an off-leash or at-large dog, is set at $240. Consultation by the city showed many residents felt the fines were too low, and staff are recommending they be increased. However, no number was given.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2015, Toronto Animal Services responded to 1,049 incidents of dog bites, and 431 reports of dog attacks or menacing behaviour. Of those bitten, 754 were human, and 295 were other domestic animals.

METRO | Canadian Online Publishing Awards

Metro has been nominated for two Canadian Online Publishing Awards (COPA) for its coverage of traffic fatalities in Toronto and of the Fort McMurray fire in Alberta. METRO

METRO TORONTO

Metro Toronto received a nomination for Best Article or Series for the Toronto's Deadly Streets series.

Bridging investigative journalism and advocacy, managing editor Angela Mullins and reporter Luke Simcoe produced a series that went beyond the statistics to bring the human impact of road deaths to the fore. Their reporting successfully moved public and political opinion regarding traffic-related fatalities.

James Alvir, interactive producer, built an online tool that helped readers contact their local councillors and agitate for change. Hundreds of readers did just that, and the #TODeadlyStreets hashtag trended on Twitter in Toronto on each of the five days the series ran.

METRO ALBERTA

Metro Calgary and Metro Edmonton are nominated for Best News Coverage for their reporting of the Fort McMurray fire. When the city of more than 80,000 people had to be evacuated because a wildfire suddenly switched course, Metro provided readers across Alberta the latest information on the developing event. Darren Krause, Metro Calgary's managing editor, coordinated coverage, providing readers with a mix of news and must-know utility information as the fire started to burn down entire neighbourhoods. While most travelled south, Metro Edmonton's managing editor, Tim Querengesser, went north to provide coverage from the scene. Reporters Jeremy Simes, Alex Boyd and Liz Brown recorded the experiences of people fleeing the fire-ravaged city. They included the story of a man who watched his home burn down on his security camera, a 16-year-old girl who fled the city on horseback and a pilot who flew displaced animals to safety. Winners will be announced on Nov. 7 during a ceremony in Toronto.

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‘I don’t know if I will ever feel safe again’

Sexual assault survivor Mandi Gray said, after the sentencing of convicted rapist Mustafa Ururyar, that she was furious at the inequities in the criminal justice system. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CRIME

Survivor lists the real and hidden cost of sexual assault

What does a rape cost a victim?

Typically, it is months in bed, crying. Often, there’s an addiction to numb the wolves of memory. Almost always: an unshakable fear of men, especially the ones you know.

Mandi Gray didn’t want to dissect herself like a science experiment, laying out all her emotional distress and trauma before the cold, antique courtroom in the minutes before her rapist, Mustafa Ururyar, was sentenced. Instead, she attached three bills to her victim impact statement.

One was for 36 hour-long private sessions of psychotherapy: $3,770. That’s in addition to 20 counselling sessions she received for free from Women’s College Hospital. The two other bills were for legal services totalling more than $14,000. Gray paid for all but $3,450 herself.

What does a rape cost a rapist? In Ururyar’s case, the price was liberty. Ontario Court Justice Marvin Zuker sentenced him to the maximum penalty of 18 months in prison, followed by three years probation. Zuker also ruled Ururyar must pay $8,000 to Gray for her legal bills.

Outside on the steps of Old City Hall, 28-year-old Gray told a coterie of cameras that her feelings remain understandingly mixed. She’s happy for Zuker’s validation, but furious at the inequities in the criminal justice system.

She included three typewritten paragraphs in her victim impact statement. The last one was this: “Through this experience I have learned that the courts, the police and the university do not care about sexual assault victims. I don’t know if I will ever feel safe again.”

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BUSINESS

Agencies plead for funds, flexibility

The city’s 82 Business Improvement Associations (BIAs) want Toronto to double a $2.3 million annual fund that matches public money to the investments the businesses make in their neighbourhoods — and give them more flexibility in how they spend the money.

BIAs beautify and animate neighbourhoods with murals, banners, anti-graffiti wraps on posts and other street improvements.

They are considered city agencies. But in addition to asking for more funds, the BIAs want more flexibility on the rules that govern the way they spend the 50-50 capital cost-sharing program, worth about $4.6 million collectively.

That amount no longer makes sense, said John Kiru, executive director of the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA). It wants Toronto to double its $2.3 million capital funds, phasing the increase over five years.

Although the capital matching program has more than doubled since the program began in 2000, so has the number of BIAs. The amount they collect from about 40,000 member businesses and professional offices, has actually climbed to about $35 million a year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Report points to parking lots for transit money

The authors of a new report say they know where to find the money Toronto needs to expand its transit system. It’s in the city’s parking lots. The report, to be released Thursday by the Toronto Region Board of Trade, argues that reallocating revenue from the Toronto Parking Authority, as well as accelerating public-land sales and raising the city’s self-imposed debt ceiling, could raise almost $1 billion for transit projects.

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HIGHER AND HIGHER

Bidding wars erupt over scarce rental units

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Toronto's red-hot real-estate market is leading to bidding wars for rental apartments — with some units renting for hundreds of dollars over the asking price.

Real estate agent David Batori said it's the first time he's seen it happen in the 27 years he's been in the business. Many people can't afford to buy in neighbourhoods they want to live in, he said, which leads to more competition for rentals.

"People get desperate for accommodations," he said.

One recent rental property in the north Toronto neighbourhood of Allenby attracted three bidders and ended up going for $5,300 a month, he said. It was listed at $4,500.

$4.5K → $5.3K

One recent rental property in the north Toronto neighbourhood of Allenby was listed for $4,500 a month but ended up going for $5,300

"It's a simple function of supply and demand," said real estate agent David Fleming.

> **What's going on is absolutely crazy.**
> Dena Shiff

"Every single thing in Toronto has more demand than supply, and that includes rentals."

Many bidding wars are actually initiated by would-be tenants, not landlords, Fleming said.

"You have to make yourself look attractive as a tenant," he said, noting renters who may not have perfect credit scores, salaries or references will sometimes offer to pay higher rent in a bid to secure a unit.

Plus, tenants are offering to pay more money upfront, said agent Dena Shiff.

"If a unit is listed at $1,500, tenants are offering $1,600 or more, with four months down, six months down. Some tenants want the unit so badly they'll offer a full year down," she said.

If bidding wars continue, most real estate agents predict rental rates will climb even higher.

That's not a good sign for Toronto's already overheated housing market, Fleming said, as buyers are willing to pay more for homes if they can rent them for higher returns.

"Higher rents equal higher real estate prices," he said.

WITH FILES FROM LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

This is not a garage, it's a 'picturesque coach house'

It could be yours, for $1,000 a month.

Not as a place to start a band or a computer company; rather, as a place to settle down and call home.

It's the asking price on Viewit.ca for a one-bedroom garage — er, "picturesque coach house" — at Avenue Road and St. Clair Avenue W.

There's no square footage listed on the ad, but the place comes with a fridge, stove, parking spot and a private bathroom. There are also hardwood floors and stairs leading to a loft-like sleeping area.

The owner listed on the ad did not immediately respond to Metro's requests for comment, but some online commentators have lamented it as a sign of Toronto's squeezed and highly competitive rental market.

Real-estate agent David Batori is unsurprised by the unconventional offering.

He sees many basement apartments that aren't even legal go for similar prices.

"There's a real big shortage of quality rentals under $1,000 a month in Toronto, especially in midtown," he said.

MAY WARREN/METRO

The ad on Viewit.ca says this "coach house" is "like a cottage in the middle of the city." CONTRIBUTED

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360 degrees of Syria's exodus

TIFF

Virtual reality technology brings stories of struggle

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A new film at the Toronto International Film Festival is offering viewers the chance to see life through the eyes of a 12-year-old Syrian refugee.

Clouds Over Sidra, the story of a young refugee living in the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan, premieres Thursday at TIFF. It's a collaboration between the United Nations and Artscape, a Toronto-based non-profit arts organization.

The movie is filmed using new, 360-degree virtual reality technology, taking the audience on a tour of Sidra's life as she struggles through the challenges that come with living in a refugee camp, or being a young woman in a male-dominated society.

"She represents the majority, and that's sad. The world continues to be a hard and scary place to live for them," said director Nadeen El-Kassem.

With thousands of Syrian refugees continuing to integrate in Toronto and across Canada, advocates are sounding the alarm about the waning spotlight for the refugee issue.

El-Kassem hopes her film can serve as a reminder the plight of refugees is far from over.

"There was a high level of engagement initially, but that has dropped off," said El-Kassem. "We're really hoping to re-engage people in the resettlement efforts."

> She represents the majority, and that's sad. The world continues to be a hard and scary place to live for them.
> Nadeen El-Kassem

The film tries to show the struggles don't end when refugees find a new home. Navigating a new society, overcoming language barriers, finding jobs and dealing with traumatic memories can be difficult, she said.

Clouds Over Sidra will be screened at hundreds of schools, boardrooms, public places and community centres in the GTA and across Canada through December.

Although it deals with challenging subject matter, Kassem says the film is buoyed by Sidra's steadfast belief that her life is going to get better.

"My teacher says the clouds over us also came from Syria," Sidra is heard saying near the end of the short film. "Someday, the clouds and me are going to turn around and go back home."

Twelve-year-old Sidra is the subject of a new short film, Clouds Over Sidra, which premieres Thursday at TIFF. CONTRIBUTED

JORDAN

Refugee camp kids tell their own stories, with a little help

What happens when you give iPhones to a bunch of Syrian kids and ask them to document life in a refugee camp? Hint: They might just surprise you.

My Dream, My Right is a collection of short films by Syrian refugees being screened Friday during the lead-up to the Toronto Syrian Film Festival.

The project, a collaboration between Voices of the Children and Save the Children, paired 10 youth in Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp with Syrian filmmakers for a three-week workshop before sending them out to shoot on their own.

"None of their stories were 'oh look at how crappy my life is, how miserable we are.' It was quite the opposite," said co-producer Aaron Wagner.

Rather than documents of strife and struggle, the films the youth made show a different side of refugee life. One focused on beautiful gardens in the camp and how much effort is required to grow them in the desert.

Another follows a refugee running a successful soccer league in the camp. A third looks at efforts to keep children in schools despite a multitude of challenges.

"Those aren't the stories most people expect to see on the news from a refugee camp," Wagner said. "I think it humanizes refugees, instead of seeing their life through an outside eye."

The films are being shown in Toronto as part of an effort to drum up support for the Syrian Film Festival, which takes place in November.

"Newcomers bring thousands of years of history, traditions, and creativity to help build the story of Canada," said festival director Maher Azem. "It's more than just bringing more images of the war to Canadian eyes."

GILBERT NGABO/METRO

Syrian film director Faisal Attrache demonstrates how to frame a shot on an iPhone. COURTESY MOE NAJATI

IF YOU GO

The Syrian film festival's cultural party is at 7 p.m. Friday at the Assembly Hall in Colonel Sam Smith Park, near Kipling and Lakeshore.

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Math problem? No problem

As the premier promises to improve failing math scores, Metro decided to test Toronto's number skills. Armed with a sample question from the standardized Grade 6 test, we headed to the heart of the financial district to ask:

Betsy has a bakery. She uses 128.4 g of flour to make 6 muffins. How much flour does it take to make 72 muffins? (And the answer is at the bottom of the page.)

TEXT: MAY WARREN/METRO; PHOTOS: EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Ashley Waxman, 31

Waxman was walking downtown with a friend who, coincidently, tutored her in high school math.

She was surprised — and delighted — when she figured out the correct response without a calculator.

"Within my group of friends I'm probably the worst at math," she said.

Her message to kids? Bite the bullet when it comes to learning the subject.

"You don't need to like it. Just get through it."

Coco Sun, 34

Sun didn't come up with the correct answer. To be fair, she didn't even have a pencil and paper.

Still, Sun said she likes math and urges kids who are discouraged to keep at it.

"You use math in your daily life, " she said.

Case in point: "If you want to do baking, you have to calculate all the ingredients."

Margaret Scrivens, 57

Scrivens quickly worked her way through the problem to come up with the correct answer. And, when she did, she proudly announced that she went to school in Saskatchewan, not Ontario.

As a child, she never liked math — until she realized how it relates to money.

"If you put a dollar sign in front of the figures, there's a purpose, it makes all the difference," she said.

Huandre Barrett, 31

Barrett took a couple minutes to work through the problem in his head but came up with the correct answer without much difficulty.

His advice to students struggling with math is pragmatic: "You can't escape it. It's one of those basic skills that you must have to survive."

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GLOBAL CITIZEN

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1.5 billion fewer birds fly over North America

WILDLIFE

Study blames climate change, loss of habitats — and cats

North American skies have grown quieter over the last decades by the absent songs of 1.5 billion birds, says the latest summary of bird populations.

The survey by dozens of government, university and environmental agencies across North America has also listed 86 species of birds — including once-common and much-loved songbirds such as the evening grosbeak and Canada warbler — that are threatened by plummeting populations, habitat destruction and climate change.

"The information on urgency is quite alarming," said Partners In Flight co-author Judith Kennedy of Environment Canada. "We're really getting down to the dregs of some of these populations."

A snowy owl in Montana. 86 species of birds are threatened by plummeting populations, habitat destruction and climate change, a report says. THE MISSOULIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The report is the most complete survey of land bird numbers to date and attempts to assess the health of populations on a continental basis. It concludes that, while there are still a lot of birds in the sky, there aren't anywhere near as many as there used to be.

Evening grosbeaks are down 92 per cent since 1970. Snowy owls have lost 64 per cent of their numbers.

Tally it all up and there should be another 1.5 billion birds perching in backyards and flying around in forests than there are, says the report.

Nor are the declines stopping. Among those 86 species, 22 have already lost at least half of their population since 1970 and are projected to lose another 50 per cent of their numbers within the next 40 years.

For at least six species, this "half-life" window is fewer than 20 years.

The culprits are familiar.

Agriculture disturbs habitat of grassland birds and introduces pesticides into the landscape. Logging fragments the intact forests birds use as refuelling stations as they migrate. Domestic cats are thought to kill more than two billion birds a year.

"It's the death of a thousand cuts," said Kennedy.

The report says birds are crucial indicators of overall ecosystem health. Healthy forests and prairies need healthy bird populations, said Kennedy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

Canadian vibrator company sued

An American woman has launched a proposed class-action lawsuit against the Canadian-owned maker of a smartphone-enabled vibrator, alleging the company sells products that secretly collect and transmit "highly sensitive" information.

The Chicago-area woman, identified in a statement of claim only as N.P., has made her complaints against Standard Innovation (US) Corp., which is owned by the Ottawa-based Standard Innovation Corp, over a "high-end" vibrator called the We-Vibe.

The lawsuit, which was filed earlier this month in an Illinois court, explains that to fully operate the device, users download the We-Connect app on a smartphone, allowing them and their partners remote control over the Bluetooth-equipped vibrator's settings.

In particular, the app's "connect lover" feature - which promises a secure connection — allows partners to exchange text messages, conduct video chats and control a paired We-Vibe device, the woman's statement of claim said.

The woman at the centre of the suit bought her vibrator in May for $130 US, downloaded the app that connects to it and used it on several occasions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The We-Vibe 3 CONTRIBUTED

IN BRIEF

Current immigration process fine: Former PM

Former prime minister Brian Mulroney has waded into the debate over screening newcomers for "anti-Canadian values," saying he sees no need to toughen the immigration process as one Conservative leadership contender is suggesting.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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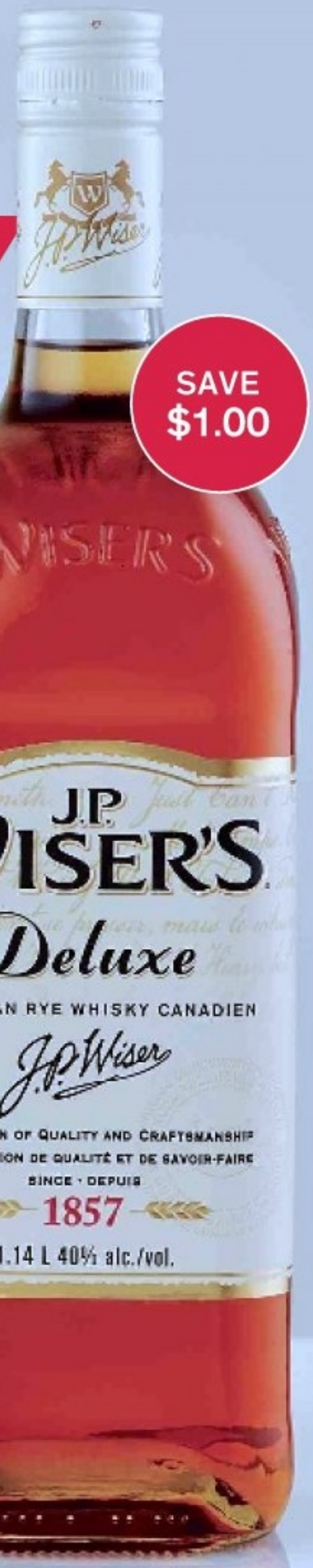

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24823

Millions of refugees have no schools: UN

REPORT

Only 50 per cent have access to education

More than half of the 6 million refugee children under the mandate of the United Nations have no access to school just as the refugee school-age population is exploding by 600,000 a year, a new report says.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees report, only 50 per cent of refugee children around the world have access to primary school education, compared with a global average of more than 90 per cent.

As these unschooled children grow older, the gap becomes even more startling: only 22 per cent of refugee teens go to high school compared to 84 per cent globally and just 1 per cent attend university, compared to 34 per cent around the world.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees report, only 50 per cent of refugee children around the world have access to primary school education. CONTRIBUTED

"By educating tomorrow's leaders, be they engineers, poets, doctors, scientists, philosophers or computer programmers, we are giving refugees the intellectual tools to shape the future," says the 48-page report to be released in Geneva Thursday.

The report comes in advance of world leaders gathering next week at the UN General Assembly's Summit for Refugees and Migrants and U.S. President Barack Obama's Leaders' Summit on the Global Refugee Crisis.

The report will serve as the backdrop to the summits' discussions to set targets and secure aid funding to ensure every school-age refugee receives a quality education.

"This represents a crisis for millions of refugee children," Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said in a statement. "Refugee education is sorely neglected, when it is one of the few opportunities we have to transform and build the next generation."

Grandi said the refugee school-age population grew by 30 per cent in 2014 alone, which means an average of at least 12,000 additional classrooms and 20,000 extra teachers are needed each year.

There are now 65 million displaced people around the world, including 21 million outside of their native countries. Eighty-five per cent of these refugees are hosted in poor developing countries.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TECHNOLOGY

Teen's hijab emoji and appeal to Apple

Rebecca Williams
Metro | Toronto

A Muslim teen is asking Apple to create an emoji of a woman wearing a hijab to better represent "millions of women across the globe."

Apple announced a slew of new emojis aimed at being more diverse gender-wise, including women weightlifting, swimming and donning a construction hat.

But for 15-year-old Rayouf Alhumedhi, the lack of representation for Muslim women was a glaring omission.

The Saudi teen, who lives in Germany, has already written a proposal to push Apple for the new emoji with the help of tech insiders, including Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian.

"Roughly 500 million Muslim women on this earth pride themselves on wearing the hijab," reads the proposal addressed to Apple CEO Tim Cook and Unicode, the body in charge of approving changes to the emoji library.

Fifteen-year-old Rayouf Alhumedhi wants 500 million Muslim women to finally be represented in emoji-form. CONTRIBUTED

"With this enormous number of people, not a single space on the keyboard is reserved for them."

The teen took to Reddit Tuesday for an "Ask Me Anything," where she opened up about what wearing the hijab means for her and about how her life has changed since moving to Germany.

"Might seem baffling, but when I wear the headscarf I actually feel liberated because I'm in control of what I want to cover," she writes.

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Gadget makers confusing customers

TECHNOLOGY

Samsung and Apple have both fumbled upgrades

What's worse, a phone that gets "bricked" by a software update or one that has a tendency to spontaneously combust?

Right now, those are your options from the world's top two smartphone manufacturers, and it points to a bigger problem: Many electronics manufacturers are delivering muddled products and even worse messages, making it difficult for consumers to upgrade. Consider:

1. On Tuesday, Apple released iOS 10, an update to its operating system that immediately started seizing up people's smartphones.

2. Samsung's latest phone, the Galaxy Note 7, is a potential fire hazard.

3. The new iPhone 7 hits stores on Friday, and it's missing a key piece of technology — the headphone jack — that makes it less consumer friendly than the previous model.

The fumbles and anti-consumer moves make even the true early adopter stop and think about shelling out.

We just lived through an impressive decade of smartphone improvement and innovation. But now, upgrades tend to feature smaller changes and improvements as opposed to whole new products.

Apple's iOS 10 software update launched with a three-month-long beta to work out the kinks, but it still promptly bricked an unknown number of phones, prompting online outrage.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Apple's iOS 10 software update launched with bugs that "bricked" older iPhones, prompting online outrage. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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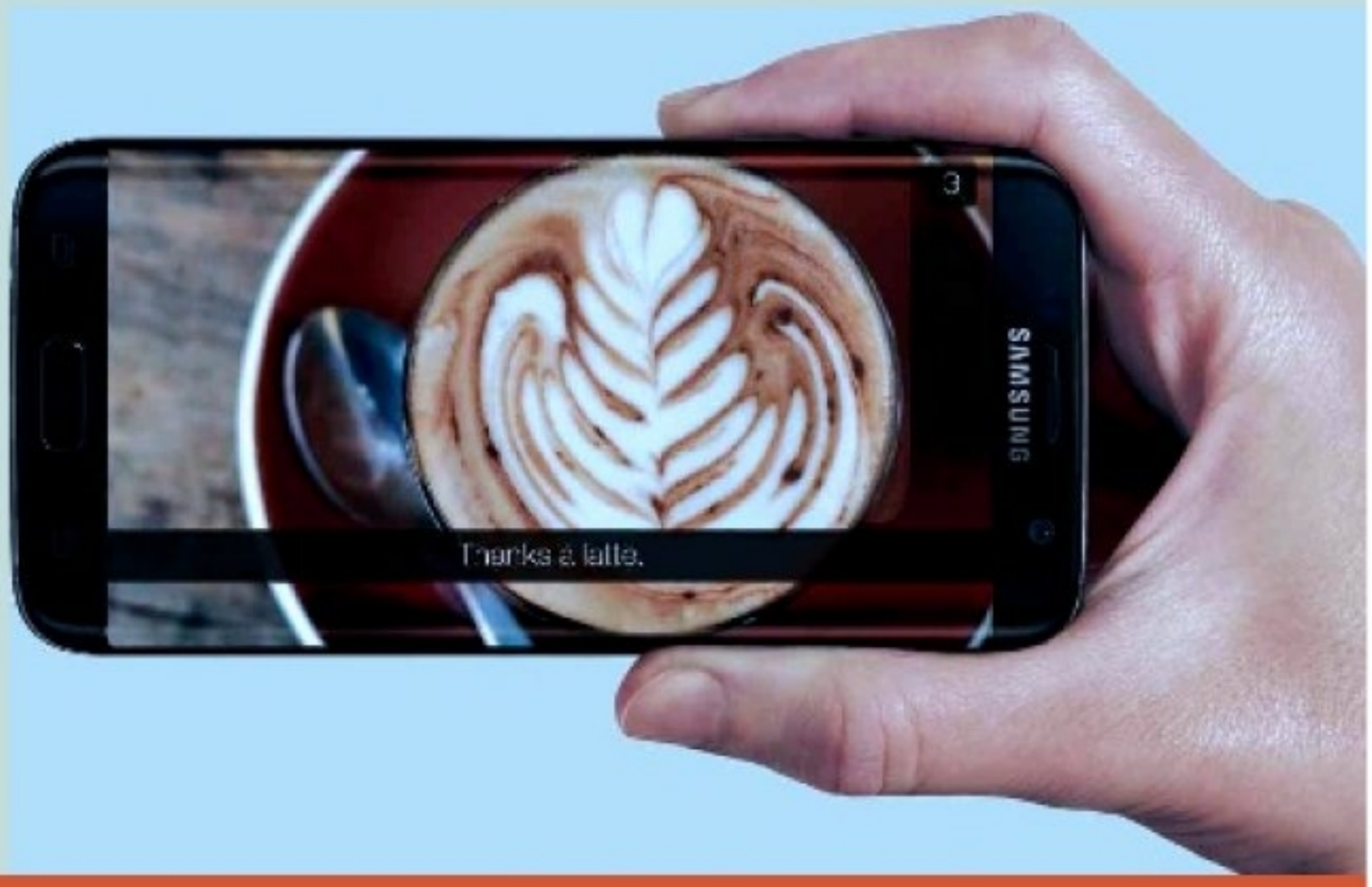

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DIGEST

Hi-tech cars, robot chefs and rising bread

1 A driverless future: Uber riders in Pittsburgh can get a glimpse of the future by summoning a car capable of handling most of the tasks of driving on its own.

Starting Wednesday, a fleet of self-driving Ford Fusions will pick up Uber riders who opted to participate in a test program.

While features allow the vehicles to navigate on their own, an Uber engineer will sit in the driver's seat and seize control if things go awry. Uber's test program is the latest move in an increasingly heated race between tech companies in Silicon Valley and traditional automakers to perfect fully driverless cars for regular people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 Did robots help make your pizza? If you ordered it from Silicon Valley's Zume Pizza, the answer is yes.

The startup, which began delivery in April, is using intelligent machines to grab a slice of the multibillion-dollar pizza delivery market. Zume is one of a growing number of food-tech firms seeking to disrupt the restaurant industry with software and robots.

The company will soon add robots to prep the dough, add cheese and toppings, take pizzas out of the oven, cut them into slices and box them for delivery.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 Panera to spread nationwide: One of the largest franchise operators of Pizza Hut and KFC locations in North America has scooped up most of the Panera Bread bakery-cafés in Ontario, with plans to grow the fresh soup and sandwich chain across Canada.

Woodstock, N.B.-based Franchise Management Inc. announced Wednesday the company will assume ownership and management of 12 Panera outlets, mostly in the Greater Toronto Area. Panera Bread is known for its fresh-baked breads, soups and hand-crafted salads and sandwiches.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

REAL ESTATE

Fintrac finds faults at nearly 500 firms

Canada's anti-money-laundering agency conducted on-site examinations of more than 800 real-estate companies over four-and-a-half years and found "significant" or "very significant" deficiencies during 60 per cent of those visits, new data shows.

A document obtained through an Access to Information request shows that Fintrac conducted 823 examinations of companies in the real-estate sector between 2012 and mid-June of this year.

The federal anti-money-laundering watchdog found "significant" deficiencies with the anti-money-laundering and anti-terrorist-financing controls at 468 of those companies, while 28 companies had "very significant" deficiencies.

Federal anti-money-laundering and anti-terrorist-financing laws require companies in certain sectors — including banks, casinos and real-estate firms — to identify their clients, keep records and report large cash deals and other suspicious transactions to Fintrac.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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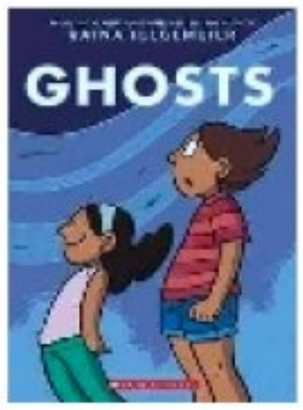

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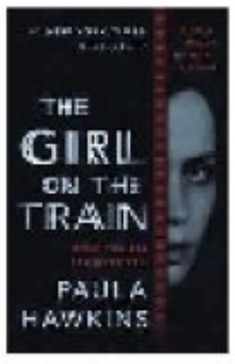

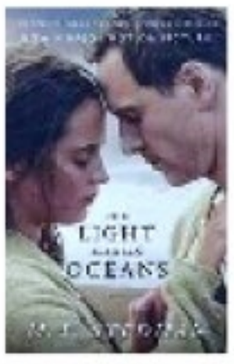

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, September 15, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON AN EX-PM'S ILL-ADVISED ADVICE

For pipeline proponents, recent developments offer an opportunity to once again try to prod Trudeau himself into action. Mulroney, for one, should know better than to flog that particular horse.

Once in a blue moon, or maybe a bit more often than that, someone who should know better offers the prime minister of the day some strikingly flawed advice.

Such is the case of Brian Mulroney's recommendation that Justin Trudeau personally take charge of the controversial Energy East pipeline file.

In a speech in Calgary this week, the former Tory prime minister offered his successful negotiation of a watershed free-trade agreement with the United States in the late 1980s as the template Trudeau should borrow to advance TransCanada's pipeline plan.

"What we now need for an exceptional, cohesive effort to make the most of our resource base is a similarly clear commitment from the top, led by the prime minister, with a unique, high-quality organizational structure drawing expertise from across Canada, and a genuine partnership that will spearhead expansion of our resources, expedite infrastructure construction and bolster a broader diversification of our resources," the former Tory prime minister told his Alberta audience.

It should be said at the outset that this is advice offered in good faith. At a time when most were still sneering at the notion that Trudeau could become prime minister, Mulroney was talking up his potential.

As opposed to other prominent Energy East backers — such as former Quebec premier Jean Charest who was at one point on contract as a consultant to TransCanada — Mulroney has no financial connection to the project. (He does toil in a law firm that, like its competition, is always on the lookout for more energy industry clients.)

Mulroney is not the first to call on Trudeau to jump in front of the pipeline parade and, given the travails of the National Energy Board in dealing with Energy East, he will not be the last.

On Friday the three-member NEB panel tasked with vetting the plan to link the oilsands to the Atlantic coast belatedly recused itself amidst enduring questions as to its independence.

In hindsight, that should have happened as soon as news surfaced earlier this summer of private meetings between panel members and parties such as Charest, whose interests were vested in the project.

The next panel will be made up of members hand-picked by the Trudeau government rather than legacy Conservative appointees. That should go some way to restore credibility to the process. Further down the road, it would make a pro-Energy East NEB recommendation harder for Trudeau to dismiss.

But for pipeline proponents, the latest developments also offer an opportunity to once again try to prod Trudeau himself into action. Mulroney, for one, should know better than to flog that particular horse.

The current prime minister does have an enviable amount of political capital. But then, so did former Quebec premier Lucien Bouchard when he took on the role of chief lobbyist for the shale gas industry in Quebec a few years ago. Not only did Bouchard fail to advance the argument, he also left a lot of his credibility on the battlefield.

And then, the dynamics of a top-down prime ministerial effort to rally support for a pipeline in the name of nation-building would be more akin to the ill-fated constitutional rounds that took place on Mulroney's watch than to the trade negotiations that led to the FTA and NAFTA.

If there is one former prime minister who should know the limits of the persuasive powers of a top-down policy consensus, it should be Mulroney. He and his government succeeded twice in securing unanimous provincial support for two successive constitutional accords.

Within a year of the negotiation of the Meech Lake accord in 1987, premiers of a different constitutional persuasion had replaced Mulroney's allies in New Brunswick and Manitoba. And no amount of establishment support from virtually every quarter of Canadian society could salvage the subsequent Charlottetown accord from the fury of voters.

Back when Mulroney and the premiers set out to proactively redress Quebec's constitutional grievances, the sovereignty movement was at low ebb. These days it is similarly at a loss for an issue with enough popular traction to restore its momentum.

Anyone who is close to the Quebec scene can testify that a show of federal force on Energy East could be the answer to the sovereigntist prayers for optimal conditions for a return to power of a majority Parti Québécois government and — perhaps in time — another shot at referendum.

TAKE IT FROM HIM Former prime minister Brian Mulroney has said Justin Trudeau should take a lesson from the free-trade negotiations with the U.S. in the late '80s and assume leadership on the oilsands-pipeline file. LARRY MCDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

If there is one former prime minister who should know the limits of a top-down policy consensus, it's Mulroney.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro on Thursdays.

Suspicion of immigrants is a Canadian value

Desmond Cole

Conservative MP and party leadership contender Kellie Leitch doesn't really want a conversation on Canadian values.

The callous Leitch, who has been insisting lately that we consider a values test for prospective immigrants, simply wants to boost her brand by playing to racist and xenophobic fears of some Conservative party supporters. Modern conservative groups keep questioning immigrants' values because they know their liberal political opponents, who are prone to the same prejudiced scapegoating, will struggle to condemn them.

Many have called Leitch's proposal impractical, since no one person or group can define Canadian values. That's a nice idea, but we know the values our politicians attempt to sell us are a reflection of our colonial, white, British heritage. There are such things as Canadian values, and they explain how our politicians have been peddling a fear of foreigners for the last 150 years.

Suspicion of all immigrants who are not white, or are not members of the former British Empire, is a Canadian value. Canada's founding prime minister, John A. Macdonald, argued that Chinese immigrants to Canada were unfit to vote because they exhibited "no British instincts or British feelings or aspirations." Macdonald didn't need to cloak the authority of the state in the language of wanting a "conversation" about immigrants; in his time, there was no conversation to be had.

Assurances that we no longer live in the 19th century are beside the point. Every politician from Macdonald to Leitch has been able to bank on significant support by distinguishing between British or Canadian values and those of everyone else. Yes, even many newer immigrants echo these suspicions of outsiders' customs or beliefs. They may hail from countries that our government is wary of. The pressure on these newcomers to conform — to validate the wisdom of the system that chose them, to scrutinize those who come after them — must be overwhelming.

Leitch may not win her leadership contest, but the fact her naked appeal to prejudice can still spur "debate" in this country says it all. Polls suggest a majority of Canadians agree with Leitch's call to screen immigrants for good values. Few of us really care about the content of the questionnaire. What we care about is our very Canadian right to demand that immigrants be scrutinized against the comfort and well-being of those already established here.

Conservatives are more likely to support the traditional dominant values openly. It was Leitch who announced a 2015 Conservative campaign proposal to create a "barbaric cultural practices hotline." Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who has cast himself as being far more progressive on immigration and cultural issues, had little to say about the Macarthyist snitch line — Trudeau and his party had quietly voted in favour of a Conservative law called the "Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act" only four months before the election.

Desmond Cole is a journalist based in Toronto

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Tinder Film Festival? Use of the app spiked 31 per cent during the opening weekend of TIFF

Gosling on fame and all that jazz

LA LA LAND

Canadian actor reflects on his own success in L.A.

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone are two artists trying to chase their dreams in L.A. CONTRIBUTED

Ryan Gosling should become an annual fixture at the Toronto International Film Festival. After all, he's premiered such hits as Blue Valentine and Drive here, and now that the London, Ont.-born actor is back, he's once again brought a certain buzz to the city.

"It's great to come home," said Gosling, gazing out the window of a top floor in the Ritz-Carlton hotel. "I left Canada so I could make movies in Los Angeles so it feels good to bring those movies home."

This latest film must feel particularly pleasing for him to present to Canada.

After all, it's about his adopted home, Los Angeles — where he moved when he was merely 16 and since found monumental movie stardom.

An audacious musical about the romance between an aspiring jazz musician and an impassioned actress (Emma Stone), La La Land has been turning heads with its catchy musical numbers and big-screen charm.

But amongst the spectacle, Gosling should also be singled out for learning jazz piano prior to filming.

"I dove right in — I always wanted to play piano and what an opportunity to spend three months with a great tutor playing music that you like," said Gosling, who admits to having lost his chops since.

"Some of the pieces I could still play but jazz is very, very difficult."

The musical, which has been enchanting Toronto audiences and finding itself on the top of many critics' Oscar-favourite lists, balances fantastic set pieces with themes of risk and rejection, elements every struggling actor in Hollywood knows well — except maybe the 35-year-old thespian.

> **I didn't have any real frame of reality (so) in my mind it was possible.**
>
> Ryan Gosling on arriving in L.A. when he was 16 years old, to pursue an acting career

"I didn't know any better," recalled Gosling of his early ambition in Tinseltown.

"I didn't have any real frame of reality (so) in my mind it was possible.

"If I had gone later in life, I don't know if I would've gone.

"But I certainly don't think I would've put myself out there in the way I did."

While the Oscar-nominee credits his conviction for success in showbiz, he admits it's not always been an easy ride. Even with the luck he's had, Gosling still feels every role is a risk.

"It's always a crap-shoot," said Gosling. "Although with this I have to say that it felt like if it was as fun to watch as it was to make, we would have something that worked."

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Oliver Stone to the NSA: 'They can put me in jail'

SNOWDEN

Director isn't afraid to say what he thinks at TIFF

Luba Egorova
For Metro Canada

Oliver Stone at the red carpet premiere of Snowden during TIFF. GETTY IMAGES

Oliver Stone has some strong words for the U.S. establishment. His docudrama on National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden delves into the murky world of surveillance and national security.

The 69-year-old — who recently announced he's absorbed with everything Russian and is making a documentary on Vladimir Putin — sat down with Metro Moscow's Luba Egorova at TIFF to talk about his film Snowden and what he really thinks about the NSA.

Edward Snowden divides opinion. Some consider him a traitor, others a patriot. In the film you depict him as a hero and actually put an end to this dispute by justifying his actions. Why didn't you present the other point of view?

There is another point of view in the movie — it's the National Security Agency.

But they look like bad guys...

Not all of them. I think it is possible to understand them. For example, Snowden's boss says you don't have to share the views of politicians to be a patriot. He is opposed to the war in Iraq. In his point of view, it is complete nonsense. He believes people prefer surveillance instead of freedom.

This is how he justifies the actions of the agency — there's no third world war thanks to their work. He thinks the only way to keep this security in the heyday of technology, cyber attacks and viruses is through total surveillance. And the main enemies are Iran, China and Russia. He eloquently explains to Snowden that security is a victory, which are the same views that (former NSA director) Michael Hayden had. And many Americans do not care about their rights, their freedom — they are satisfied with security. But I do care. Somehow they forget their security before September 11 — they messed up, because of being stupid. They had a lot of intelligence, but it was fragmented. They just could not see the whole picture. I suppose Russians wouldn't have made that mistake. When it comes to terrorism, Russians are ruthless. Moreover, the National Security Agency often makes public statements. Being a secret service, it is advertising its activities. Or how else would they receive money for their programs? One of the characters had three million, and then the budget increased to three billion. And he says that the NSA operates in the interests of military–industrial complex. That's why I did not think it is important to focus on the "other point of view," but it's there.

After investigating Snowden's story have you changed your mind about gadgets?

Of course. I am sure they are somehow in them and are reading my messages. I would use encryption. You know, I'm a public figure and for a long time I have openly said what I think... I think since the '70s. However, I am too old for all these things. If they want, they can put me in jail. And telling them to f— off won't be a bad way to end life. I don't want to live like a slave. I am disgusted with the idea of tyranny: People should not be wiretapping or anything else like in George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four. What horror awaits us in the future? It's scary. And I don't want to live this way. This is how I feel about the NSA: Go f— yourselves.

TIFF MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Filmgoers pass out at screening of Raw

Rebecca Williams
Metro | Toronto

Raw, a 'cannibalistic coming of age' film, was so gory some audience members fainted, according to a TIFF exec. CONTRIBUTED

Even those who love gory movies have their limits, and it seems a tale of a "cannibalistic coming of age" is one movie some found hard to stomach.

Paramedics were called to the Ryerson Theatre early Tuesday morning after multiple audience members passed out during a midnight screening of the cannibal film Raw.

"An ambulance had to be called to the scene as the film became too much for a couple of patrons," film festival exec Ryan Werner told the Hollywood Reporter.

The French-Belgian film from director Julia Ducournau premiered at a Midnight Madness screening, known for featuring intense thrillers and graphic horror movies.

It seems Raw fit the bill.

Of course, there are some questioning whether the fainting film festers were legitimate or planted in the theatre by a very creative marketing team.

On Twitter, @AWolfeful wrote 'I hope some marketing genius paid these people to pass out...'

According to the film festival website, Raw tells the tale of a vegetarian veterinary student who "develops an insatiable lust for flesh as the result of a gruesome hazing ritual."

The film has been one of the more buzzed-about movies at the festival since it won a critics' prize at the Cannes Film Festival back in May.

Interested in catching the film?

Raw has one more screening at the TIFF Bell Lightbox on Saturday, Sept. 17.

BRINGING SEXY BACK WITH BRITNEY? A musical reunion between **Justin Timberlake** and **Britney Spears** could be in the works after the singer said he's up for collaborating with his ex-girlfriend. Spears said "Justin Timberlake is very good" last month while discussing who she would like to work with one day. When informed of Spears' comments, Timberlake told E! News on Tuesday at the premiere of his Netflix concert documentary in Toronto that he "absolutely" would like to work with her, adding "I'm accessible, give us a call." LIZ BEDDALL/FOR METRO

GOSSIP BRIEFS

Evangeline Lilly to emcee Rock Against the TPP

Canadian actress Evangeline Lilly is adding her voice to a chorus of advocacy and labour groups in denouncing the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership deal. The star, best known for her role in the hit TV series Lost, will be emceeing the Rock Against the TPP show in Toronto on Friday, the touring event's only Canadian stop. Lilly, who is Canadian but lives in the U.S., called the TPP a "backdoor way for multinationals to squeeze things into law" without the usual public scrutiny. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Miley Cyrus announces her red-carpet revolt

INTERVIEW

Star says when people are starving, walk feels like a 'skit'

Singer and actress Miley Cyrus hasn't walked a red carpet since December for A Very Murray Christmas. She now criticizes the flashy tradition — "it's like Zoolander," she says. GETTY IMAGES

If a celebrity doesn't walk a red carpet, are they still a celebrity?

In the next phase of her career, that's the bold question Miley Cyrus will face after her unprecedented vow to "never do a red carpet again."

With Hollywood's awards season kicking off at Sunday's Primetime Emmys, will other celebs sidestep the frenzy and follow Cyrus off the carpet? In show business, such a daring declaration could have implications beyond what's beneath those designer heels.

In recent years, media shenanigans on red carpets have prompted push-back from such A-listers as Julianne Moore, Reese Witherspoon and Jennifer Aniston.

Last awards season, they opted against sticking their well-manicured and bejeweled hands in front of E!'s "mani-cam," while younger actresses like Jena Malone and Elizabeth Moss publicly mocked the paw parade.

Cyrus last appearance on a red carpet was back in December at the premiere of the Netflix film A Very Murray Christmas. Cyrus ominously captioned an Instagram photo of herself posing on it: "(hashtag)mylastredcarpet4eva." Apparently, she meant it.

"I had to do the premiere, and I will never do a red carpet again," the singer-actress said in the October issue of Elle magazine, out Wednesday. "Why, when people are starving, am I on a carpet that's red? Because I'm 'important'? Because I'm 'famous'? That's not how I roll. It's like a skit — it's like Zoolander."

Stacy Jones, president of entertainment marketing agency Hollywood Branded, said stars who shun the red carpet lose fame and fortune. She expects Cyrus, who is appearing as a coach on the latest season of the NBC singing competition The Voice and starring in the upcoming Amazon series Crisis in Six Scenes, will likely miss out on future roles and deals because of her decision.

"It's part of the job," said Jones. "In today's world, when you sign up to be a celebrity, you're singing up to be in the limelight. You're going to be in gossip columns and have paparazzi follow you. You will have fans idolize you. It's damaging to your career and people you work with to say you won't be part of the glitz and glamour that comes along with the job."

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The family that reads together

PUBLISHING

Young readers get their own editions of popular titles

Genna Buck
Metro Canada

B.C. author Tilar J. Mazzeo's latest book, Irena's Children, is the high-adventure tale of Irena Sendler, a "female Oskar Schindler." The Polish social worker rescued 2,500 mostly Jewish children during the Second World War by hiding them in coffins and smuggling them through Warsaw's sewers, with help from her network of resourceful teenagers.

But none of that was what Mazzeo's tweenage stepson was most interested in.

"His favourite was the part about Irena Sendler's dog," Mazzeo said. "It's interesting what kids pick up on — the idea that the dog helped, by barking to distract the Germans."

Irena's Children is coming out Sept. 27 in two distinct versions simultaneously, one for adults and one for young readers 10 and up. That's the one her stepson devoured. Her work is part of a trend: Publishers are adapting adult titles — both backlisted books and new ones like Mazzeo's — for younger audiences.

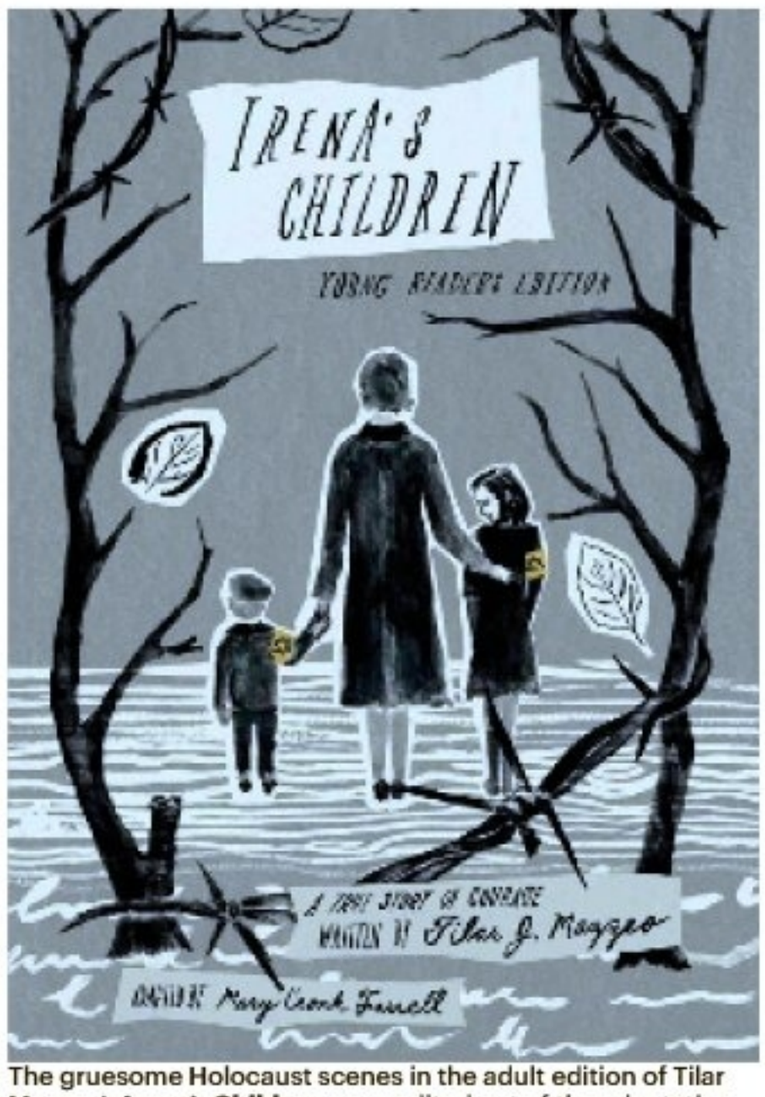
It's a strategy to squeeze more revenue out of a single title, and to respond to the demand for good books, especially non-fiction, for middle-grade readers.

"That nine to 12 age is super hard," said Kelly Jensen, an editor at Book Riot and former children's librarian. "You have reluctant readers, and some kids who are super eager readers," whose teachers and parents might not want them browsing the YA shelves just yet, Jensen said.

Young readers' editions of well-known titles might be attractive to publishers because they're "safe picks," for school libraries and classrooms, Jensen added. "It's going to be a good story, you know what it's about, without the topics that would make a parent cringe."

There's a fine line between making material age-appropriate and "dumbing down," she said.

"I look at the young reader editions that are 350 pages and think, 'A 10-year-old's not going to pick that up unless they're super into it. And if they're super into it, they might pick up the adult version," Jensen said.



The gruesome Holocaust scenes in the adult edition of Tilar Mazzeo's **Irena's Children** were edited out of the adaptation for young readers. CONTRIBUTED

Mazzeo, author of Irena's Children, was happy with how her young readers' edition turned out.

The scenes of violence against children were, naturally, left out of the kids' edition. It's not always clear, though, when adaptation tips over into censorship.

For example, Sendler's affair with a married man is a key plot point in Irena's Children, but in the young-reader version the character is just her friend.

"I'm not totally sure, personally, we needed to edit that out," Mazzeo said. "But ... some people would not want their children reading about marital infidelity."

"The bigger point was you would not want a child *not* reading a story about something really heroic that happened in the Second World War simply because of that issue."

Cognitive scientist Alexandra Horowitz faced a similar challenge while adapting her 2009 bestseller Inside of a Dog. She pushed to keep technical words like "umwelt" — a term for the internal world of a dog. New concepts are an important part of getting excited about a book, Horowitz said. "I've had good feedback so far. Children are torturing their parents with that word."

READ IT

Adult titles that have been adapted for kids

- I am Malala: Young readers edition
  Malala Yousafzai (2014)
- Inside of a Dog: Young readers edition
  Alexandra Horowitz (2016)
- Far from the Tree, young young readers edition, Andrew Solomon (forthcoming in 2017)
- The Omnivore's Dilemma: Young Readers Edition Michael Pollan (2009)

Big-name novelists getting in on the trend

- Unbroken, Young readers edition
  Laura Hillenbrand (forthcoming in 2017)
- Da Vinci Code, the YA Adaptation
  Dan Brown (2016)

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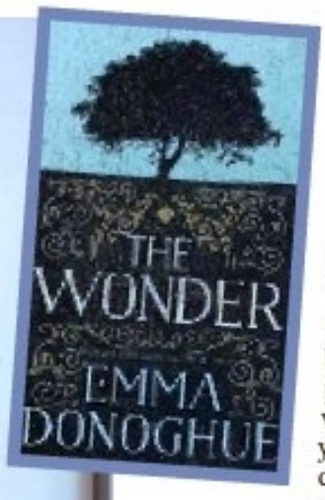
Dubious miracles make Donoghue 'Wonder'

THE WONDER

Religion plays central role in Giller nominee's newest book

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



Emma Donoghue was inspired by the story of a small Irish town that claimed a statue of the Virgin Mary moved. HANDOUT

During the summer of 1985, residents of a small Irish town claimed to have seen a statue of the Virgin Mary move.

The event spawned other sightings across the country of divine statues moving, breathing and even crying, drawing thousands of curiosity seekers and devout Catholics in prayer.

Emma Donoghue — author of the international bestselling novel Room — was just a teenager at the time but she remembers finding the entire phenomenon embarrassing.

"It seemed to me to be a classic case of mass hysteria," she says.

"I found it alarming that at a point when Ireland desperately needed to modernize, instead it was having this medieval flashback."

A dubious miracle also drives Donoghue's new novel, The Wonder, which was longlisted last week for the Scotiabank Giller Prize.

Set in 1850s Ireland, a young devout Catholic girl named Anna O'Donnell hasn't eaten for months, believed to be subsisting on manna from God.

As her notoriety increases, a village committee hires Lib, an English nurse who was trained by Florence Nightingale, to ensure Anna isn't sneaking in food and that she is indeed a miracle.

When Anna's health begins to rapidly deteriorate, with her teeth falling out and a downy hair covering her body, skeptical Lib finds herself up against those who would willingly let the child die in the name of religious fanaticism.

Donoghue was initially inspired by the stories of Fasting Girls, which took place between the 16th and 20th centuries, where a group of women, young and old, survived without food for inexplicably long periods of time.

"I've always been intrigued by cases of people who are very powerless yet end up becoming famous or lauded or put on show," she says.

While Donoghue often bases her historical fiction on true events, she decided not to focus The Wonder on any particular person. Some stories she found too sad, while others were obvious hoaxes so ridiculous she would have ended up writing a comedy.

Although Anna's situation is certainly extreme, Donoghue has observed that ideals of contemporary femininity — of being "ladylike and dainty" — have not changed much over the centuries, which is perhaps why many of the 50 fasting cases on record were young women.

"It's the idea that femininity is defined through not showing your appetites for sex or food or power," she says. "Obviously there are very particular factors going on in the case of the one I've written about. It's very much to do with Ireland and Catholicism, but there's also a more universal message to teenage girls to be good and be small."

While the church certainly doesn't get off easy in her novel, Donoghue's intention with The Wonder was not to directly attack Catholicism, but rather to point out the dangers of fundamentalism.

"Really, you could have set this novel in many extreme religious communities, with the emphasis on purity and goodness and rules, pleasing the adults around you and pleasing God though the virtues of sacrifice and suffering and endurance," she says.

"The Irish have always defined themselves as the people who have suffered, the people who have starved, endured, and so I think Anna's national identity as much as her religious one is all muddled up with the glories of suffering. That strand of what I would call Saint Theresa Catholicism: I found that a dark and fascinating world to write about."

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THE SUN ALSO RISES ANALYSIS

Hemingway worked his brand

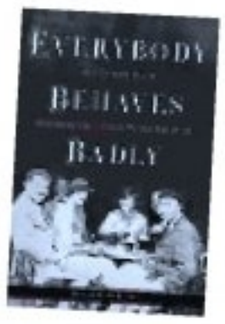
Ernest Hemingway has a special place in the heart of Torontonians. In the early 1920s he worked for the Toronto Star as a reporter, writing from post-WWI Europe and also Toronto. The brevity of his style and the ability to soak in detail, capture dialogue and explain character were elements he learned as a journalist and were brilliantly transferred to his fiction, as Lesley M.M. Blume describes in Everybody Behaves Badly: The True Story Behind Hemingway's Masterpiece The Sun Also Rises.

You note, "No one was a better promoter of Hemingway than Hemingway."

He had charisma; he was larger than life. He came to Europe at the age of 22 as a Midwesterner with a big outdoor lifestyle and a huge appetite for living. Writers didn't look like Hemingway. He is a guy who breathes the outdoors. He is sexy; he is handsome; he lives in Paris; and in a seemingly unintellectual way, he is exceedingly intellectual. He is reinventing modern language. It was an intoxicating formula to promoting Hemingway.

In The Sun Also Rises you can see the influence of journalism. But he complained about being a reporter.

He protested too much. He didn't hate being a reporter. He hated that it was taking away time from what he considered his real writing.



Hemingway was a really good reporter. He got huge assignments for a rookie reporter. He was 23 and interviewing Mussolini. The confidence of his dispatches, his knowledge of world events and his ability to encapsulate what was happening in Europe is incredible.

Hemingway's journalism did inform his style and gave him a huge amount of material to work with.

Hemingway wasn't the only one who wanted to strip down Victorian frippery. But he was the first one to do it.

He told one of his editors: 'There is nothing in my work that somebody without a high school education can't relate to.' He also said the highbrow critics "will get what I am up to." He was able to hit both the high note and the low note.

He could turn on you. Think Gertrude Stein, F. Scott Fitzgerald, his wives, all the people who supported him whom he pushed away.

Documenting this period in his life was trying to understand the nature of his charisma that would draw people to him even though he constantly turned on them. The Sun Also Rises was strong public evidence of Hemingway's ability to turn on those who had helped him. The book was breathtakingly literal. The people he chose as characters were so shrewd and so cool and so accurately reported. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **He inspired slavish devotion, even though he was unable to maintain happy relationships**
> Lesley M.M. Blume on Ernest Hemingway

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MORTGAGE BROKERS

Find out what you can afford before you go house hunting

Jason Menard

For first-time home buyers, information is key — but having the right information can make all the difference.

"A good number of first-time home buyers will look at the marketplace first then go to a broker," explained Paul Taylor, president and CEO of Mortgage Professionals Canada. "There may be a disconnect between what they want and what they can afford."

Instead, it may be more beneficial for new home buyers to determine what they can afford — and make a realistic plan based on existing debt and contingencies. Taylor said brokers can help in that process.

"Generally, people will make assumptions on the amount of debt that they're comfortable with and able to afford," he said. "A broker will walk you through your debt — student loans, credit card debt — and provide you with a realistic price range."

Jonathan Rotondo, senior media relations officer, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, pointed to the 2015 First-Time Homebuyers Survey, which showed that first-time buyers are not as confident as repeat buyers, have a lower understanding of mortgage options, and were more likely to find the process challenging. They tend to turn to brokers and lenders for advice (more than 70 per cent) — and getting that help improves their success.

First-time home buyers improve their success if they turn to brokers and lenders for advice, according to a 2015 survey. ISTOCK

> **There may be a disconnect between what first-time home buyers want and what they can afford**
> Paul Taylor, president and CEO of Mortgage Professionals Canada

"Overall, our survey indicated that most first-time buyers [78 per cent] are satisfied with their experience," Rotondo explained. "Advice from mortgage professionals can be of great help to first-time buyers, and help increase their level of understanding of mortgage options and satisfaction with their mortgage professional.

"For example, providing advice on long-term mortgage strategies can increase their level of understanding of the mortgage options available by up to 83 per cent, and their level of satisfaction with their mortgage professional by up to 85 per cent."

In addition to improving satisfaction, Taylor added that turning to professionals for your first time can help improve the bottom line.

"This will sound biased because of my position, but mortgage brokers really do save Canadians money," he said. "I don't expect everyone to believe me and I understand skepticism, but I encourage everyone to explore their options when it comes to mortgages."

+ TECHNOLOGY

Use apps and calculators to boost expert advice

With today's technology, the power to buy a home is literally in the palm of your hand. But mobile applications and calculators should be used to help support the process — not be the be all and end all.

Mortgage calculators and apps are a useful tool to help in the home buying and mortgage shopping process. However, they should be used in tandem with advice from financial and mortgage professionals," explained Jonathan Rotondo, senior media relations officer, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. "Most banks and financial institutions offer calculators or apps.

"Given this decision-making process is personal and based on an individual's particular and unique situation, it really comes down to finding and using the tools that best fit your needs." JASON MENARD

Reviewing your mortgage is good for financial health. ISTOCK

HOUSING FINANCE

Tend mortgage options to encourage financial growth

Getting a mortgage can be stressful, which is why many tend to not want to continually revisit the process. However, there may be benefits to you if you look at mortgage maintenance as a vital part of your financial health.

"The majority of people probably do just set it and forget it," explained Paul Taylor, president and CEO of Mortgage Professionals Canada. "We recommend always looking at options."

There may be value in talking to a broker or lender to see if there are other options available. If you have a mortgage with a higher interest rate than the current rate, it may be worthwhile to look at changing the terms of your mortgage — even if there are fees or penalties.

Some people also look at paying down mortgages earlier, but Taylor said that may or may not be the right choice.

"It's really about individual circumstances," he said, adding that there's a bit of a generational divide in that more mature mortgage holders tend to prioritize paying down their mortgage, whereas younger home owners tend to have a higher threshold for debt tolerance. Regardless, he said it's important to get the right information when making a decision.

"Is it better to pay more on your mortgage, or take those extra funds — if you have them — and invest elsewhere? That's very much up to the individual and their situation," he said. "It's important to get expert advice — whether that's from a financial advisor or a broker — to make a decision that's right for you."

Jonathan Rotondo, senior media relations officer, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, said it's important to make informed housing finance decisions.

"Take the time to plan and review your mortgage options, terms and conditions and prepare yourself for managing your mortgage," he said. "Consider a lesser mortgage amount than the maximum you can afford; evaluate the impact of an increasing interest rate on your monthly payment; plan to be mortgage free faster and create a 'cushion' in case of unforeseen financial difficulties; and seek help if you have difficulty making your mortgage payments."

This also extends to those looking at using home equity to pay down debt or reinvest into their homes. "A broker will work with you to walk through the options based upon your own life circumstances," Taylor added.

JASON MENARD

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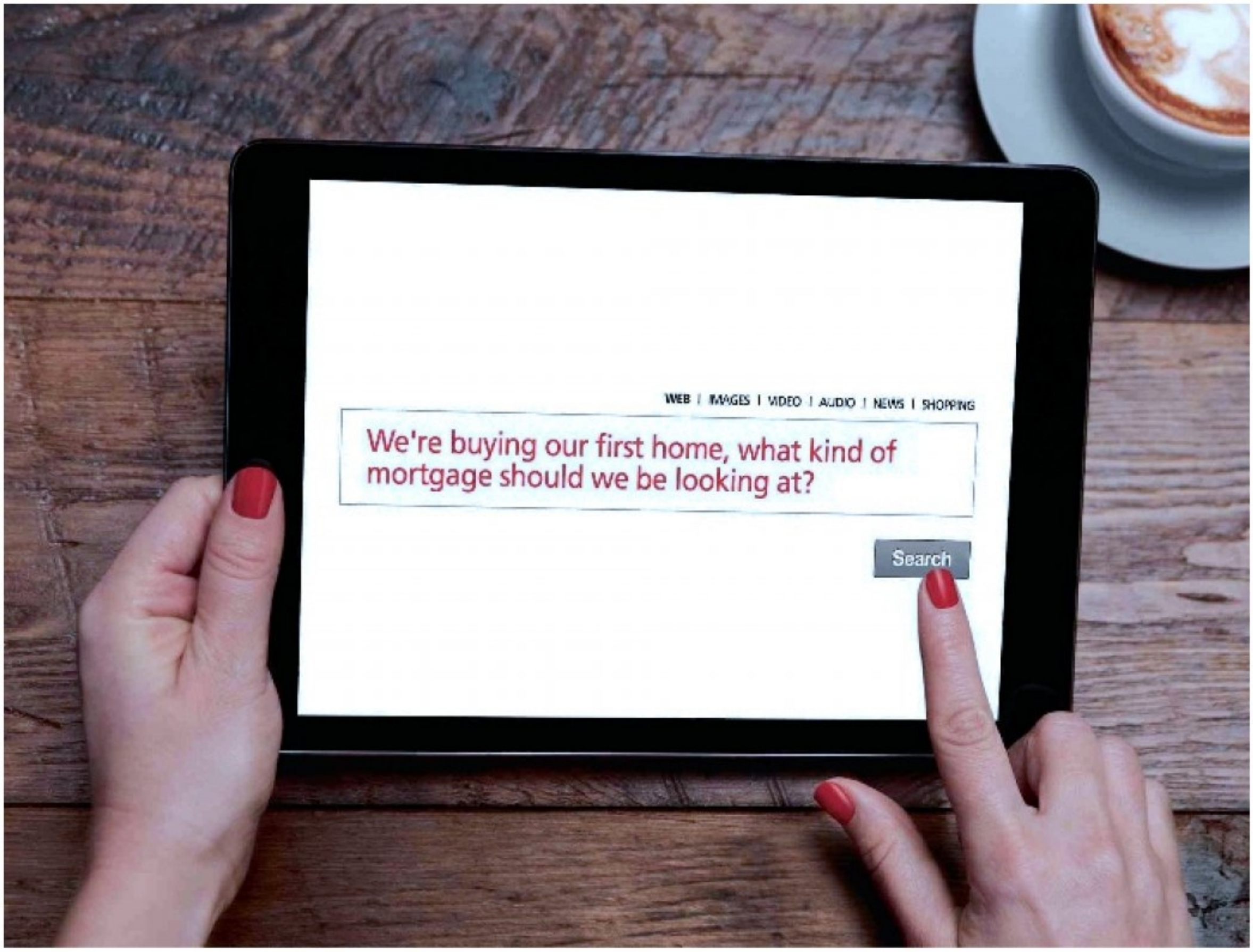

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MEET THE CONDO

Lakeside living

Project overview

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Housing amenities

Residents will enjoy a two-storey lobby, a fitness centre, party room, bar, dining room, and several indoor and outdoor lounges, as well as an outdoor saltwater pool on the fifth floor.

In the neighbourhood

The area is rich with amenities like shops, restaurants, cafés, schools and services. New retail, restaurants and grocery stores are on the horizon. In addition, the Sherway Gardens shopping centre is a few minutes west.

Location and transit

Vita on the Lake is located on the lakeshore just west of Toronto's downtown, close to the King TTC streetcar, the QEW, the Gardiner Expressway and the Toronto Island Airport.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

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LEGAL MATTERS

How to know if you can build

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

While you might have your dream space all planned out, make sure you check with a variety of professionals before starting a demolition/building project. ISTOCK

Q: We have an opportunity to purchase a plot of land on which there are plans to build a new house that will replace the existing structure.

The present owner has had these plans drafted and gone as far as getting permits and has stated that everything is definitely ready to go.

How do we ensure that we are getting a complete set of plans and that all we'll have to do is demolish the present house and get started with the new house?

A: Building a new home is a complex process that requires the co-ordination of numerous professionals including, but not limited to: architects, city planners, contractors, sub-contractors, engineers and urban planners not to mention realtors, bankers and lawyers.

You should be building into the agreement of purchase and sale the appropriate provisions that ensure you are being supplied with everything necessary to get you started.

I don't profess to know what is necessary and what is not. I would assume you need to call upon a team of professionals such as the ones that I have already mentioned to review the existing plans to see if they meet with requirements to demolish the existing structure(s) and safely and according to code, build a new home for you and your family.

What an exciting, but daunting prospect.

Good luck!

Home renovation with confidence

BILD

'Shape your space' key theme at this year's show

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

The Toronto Fall Home Show runs from Sept. 23 to 25 at the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place and there's plenty to get excited about if you're looking for inspiration, ideas or advice for your next home renovation.

"Shape your space" is a key theme of this year's Show, which features more than 300 exhibitors, celebrity experts and renovators, plus many great resources for homeowners looking to renovate, refurbish or redecorate their space.

Be sure to attend the Five Steps to a Successful Renovation seminar on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. on the main stage. Two professional RenoMark renovators will discuss the five-step guide to renovating a home or condo, offer helpful tips and answer questions from the audience.

A key component of planning a renovation is finding a professional renovator to work with, and this seminar will help you do that. Presenters will explain the advantage of working with a professional, what to include in your written contract, and how to communicate with your renovator throughout the project.

Another feature not to miss is Destination Renovation, BILD's feature exhibit at the Fall Home Show where you can sit down for a free one-on-one consultation with a RenoMark renovator. The exhibit's team of professional renovators will share their knowledge and offer expert tips that range from building permits to material selection. Visitors are encouraged to bring photos, sketches and plans.

Destination Renovation will also give you the tools to find a professional renovator that is right for your project. One such resource is renomark.ca, home to the national RenoMark program that connects homeowners with professional renovators, trade contractors and custom builders in their area.

This year's Show will be bigger and better than ever. There are hundreds of great products and features from a variety of retailers, many of whom are BILD members. Visit fallhomeshow.com for more information or to purchase tickets.

Hope to see you at the Show.

FOR READERS

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Redeem the promo code METRO2 for $5 off regular adult admission.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

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A DIY home project to cheer for

CRAFTING

This pompom blanket is cute and practical

Pompom blankets are a classic find in the souks of Morocco. Celebrated for their handcrafted woven beauty, you'll also spot them in an endless stream of Instagram-worthy spaces.

Whether they're used as a traditional bedspread or as a cozy throw to curl up with on the sofa, it's easy to craft your own version using do-it-yourself pompoms and a purchased blanket.

Step 1: Gather supplies

We used super bulky yarn for this project. The advantage of this type of yarn is that it can result in a larger, fluffier pompom in less time.

It's also easier to separate the strands of yarn to fluff them out when it is thicker. Two skeins of bulky yarn make approximately 12 pompoms depending on size.

The pompoms are easy to attach to the blanket. If you're using a blanket with an open weave, you won't need the needle and thread. You'll easily be able to tie the pompoms to the edge. If you are using a blanket with a tighter weave, like the blanket we used, you will need to sew the pompom to the blanket.

We used a vintage blanket found at a thrift shop but you can pick up a throw from most home décor retailers.

SUPPLIES

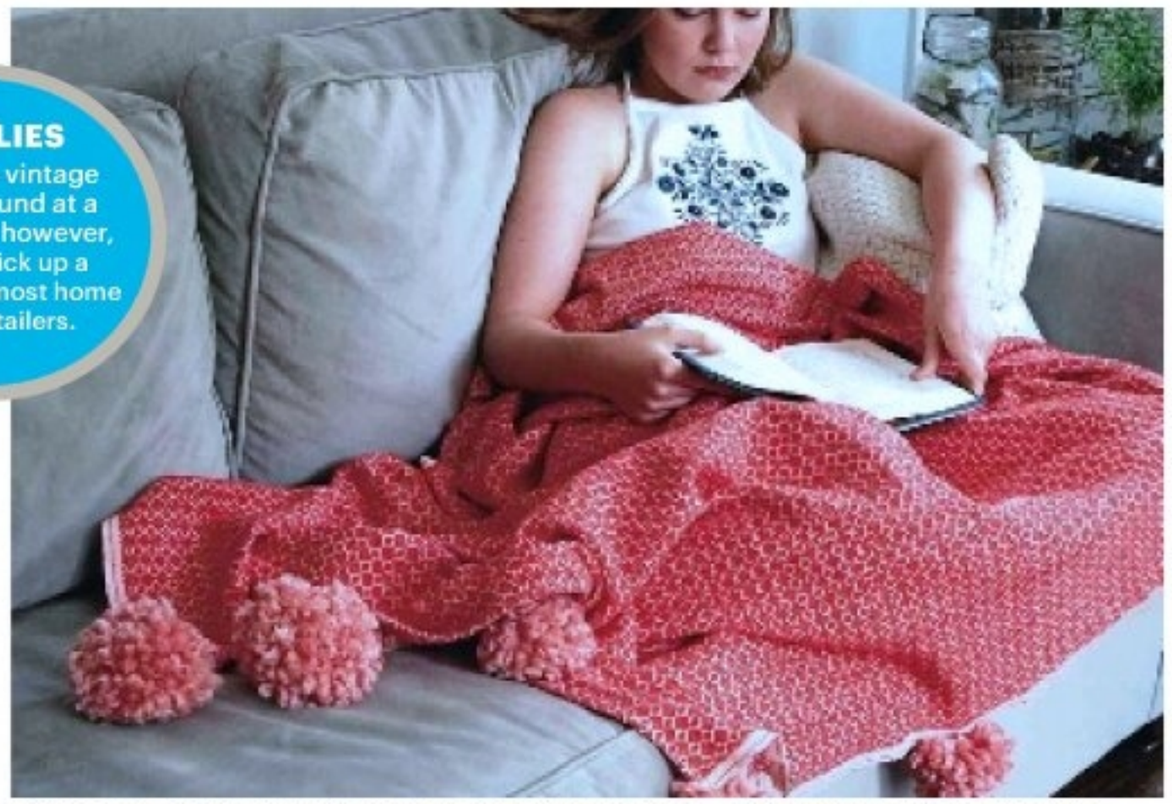
We used a vintage blanket found at a thrift shop, however, you can pick up a throw from most home décor retailers.

You'll need:

- Yarn — super bulky, two skeins
- Scissors
- Blanket or throw
- Cardboard
- Embroidery needle
- Embroidery thread

Step 2: Start wrapping!

We're sharing two ways to make a pompom. The first method uses a piece of cardboard. The second method uses your hand. Cut a piece of cardboard for wrapping the yarn. The wider the piece of cardboard, the larger the pompom will be. Wrap the yarn around the width of the cardboard until you achieve desired thickness. We wrapped the yarn around approximately 30 times. It all depends on thickness of yarn.



Pompom blankets are great to curl up with on the couch — or take it to your freezing office.
DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Step 3: Tie it up

Cut a piece of yarn long enough to tie around the middle of the wrapped yarn (approximately six inches). Lay the yarn on a table and carefully slide the wound yarn off the cardboard onto the piece of yarn. Tie the piece of yarn around the middle of the wound yarn, very tightly.

Step 4: Make the pompom

Hold the two pieces of loose string from tying the pom-pom. Using sharp scissors, on one side of the pompom, start cutting through the loops of yarn. Repeat on the other side. Ensure all of the loops are cut. Do not cut the loose yarn strings or the yarn holding the pompom together.

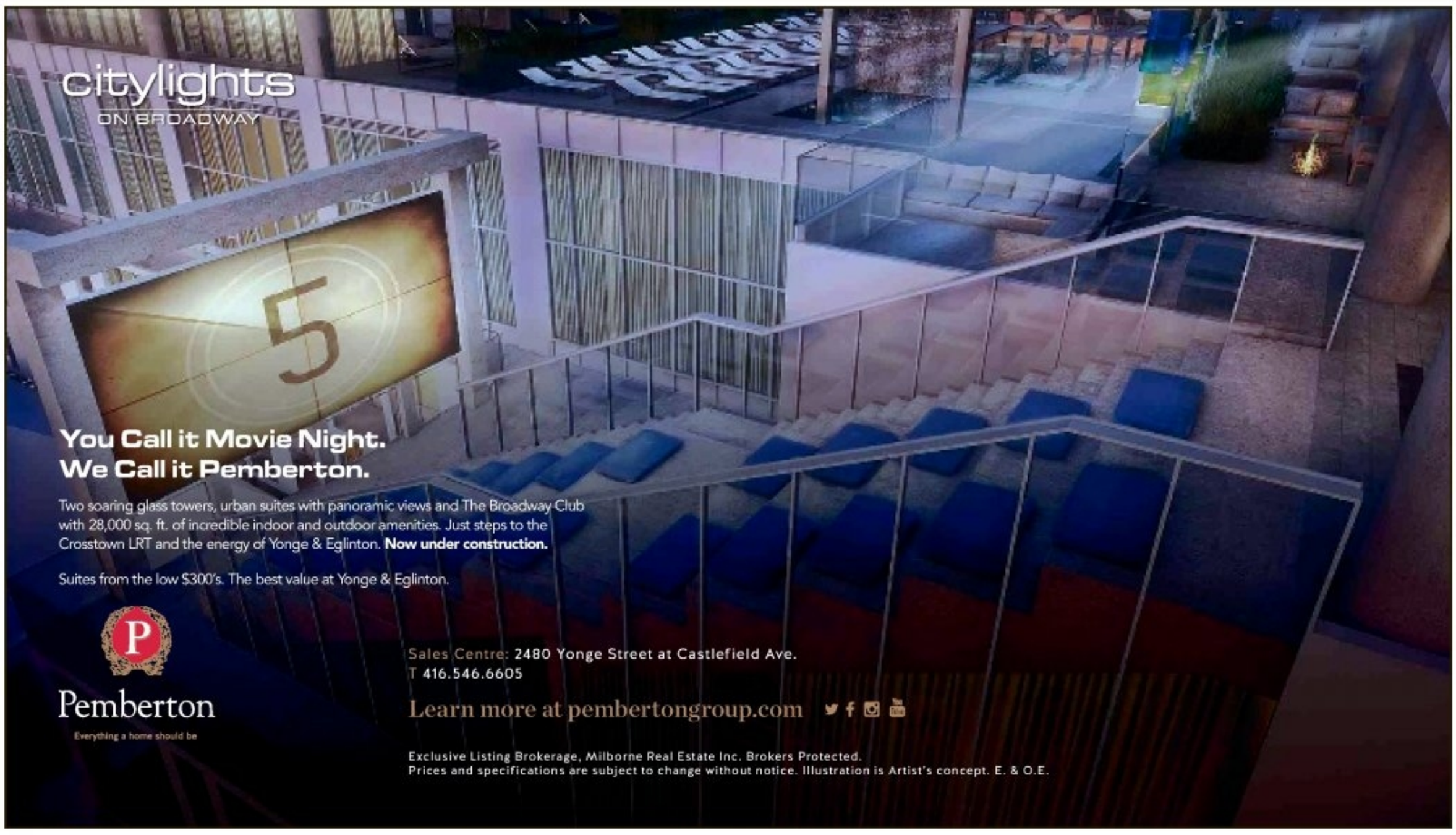
Step 5: Fluff and trim

After cutting through all the loops of yarn begin separating the strands and fluffing the pompom. Trim away extra yarn to create a ball. Keep trimming and fluffing the pompom to achieve the desired shape.

Step 6: Attach the pompom

If you are using a blanket with a tight weave you will need to sew the pompom to the blanket. To do this, thread an embroidery needle with embroidery thread. Knot the end of the thread. Thread the needle through the pompom, where it is tied, and sew the pompom to the blanket. If you are using a blanket with an open weave, simply tie the pompom to the blanket. Thread the uncut yarn pieces through an open weave at the edge of the blanket and tie.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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metro SPORTS

Miami Heat forward Chris Bosh has pronounced himself ready to play after having had each of his last two seasons halted by blood clots

'We're rock bottom'

MLB

Jays suffer 4th straight series loss, say morale is still high

At Rogers Centre

RAYS	BLUE JAYS
8	1

Marco Estrada's words were confident and optimistic, but the soft tone of the Toronto right-hander's voice and glum look on his face told a different story as he tried to explain the Blue Jays' recent skid that continued Wednesday with a demoralizing 8-1 loss to the Tampa Bay Rays.

"Our team morale is still high, guys are picking everybody else up every inning," Estrada said following the loss that knocked Toronto down to third place in the American League East.

"It's just hard to explain this," Estrada said, his gaze often finding the floor as TV cameras flashed brightly on his face. "I guess when things are going bad they stay there for a bit. But the good thing is we can only go up from here. I know things are going to change. I know time is running out but things are going to change. We're too good for it not to."

The loss capped a 2-4 stint at Rogers Centre that included a crucial series loss to the Boston Red Sox.

September has been a disaster for the Jays, who opened the month with four series losses for the first time this season. They have won just three of their last 12 games and were 2-1/2 games behind Boston for first place in the AL East after Wednesday's matinee. The Red Sox were to play the second-place Orioles on Wednesday night.

Toronto had held sole possession of the division lead as recently as Sept. 5.

"I've got to believe we're rock bottom," manager John Gibbons said. "I don't see how much lower it can go. So I'm optimistic that this will turn and turn in a hurry."

The Blue Jays will need it to if they hope to make a second straight post-season appearance.

Toronto begins what could be a tough seven-game West Coast road trip Thursday in Los Angeles followed by a three-game stop in Seattle.

The lowly Angels, behind the power of Mike Trout and Albert Pujols, won two of three games against the Jays at Rogers Centre in August. The Mariners, meanwhile, are not far removed from an AL wild-card spot and took two of three at Toronto in July.

Estrada (8-9) dominated the first three innings Wednesday, retiring the first nine Rays he faced and setting a franchise record by opening the game with five straight strikeouts. But as the game wore on, the Blue Jays' struggles began peeking through.

They managed just two hits on the day — matching a season-low — while giving up 13. They failed to score more than three runs for the 21st time in their last 41 games.

Estrada maintained that despite the Blue Jays' current state, no one in the clubhouse has given up — not yet, anyway.

"We're fighting. We're fighting for sure," he said. "I don't think anybody's down. Not yet. But we need to turn this around before anybody does get down." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays starting pitcher Marco Estrada and catcher Dioner Navarro couldn't solve the Rays after a dominant first three innings on Wednesday. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INJURY UPDATE

Reigning AL MVP **Josh Donaldson** sat out Wednesday's game, his third straight, with a hip injury.

The third baseman had an MRI Wednesday and described the injury as a gradual thing that suddenly intensified.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WORLD CUP OF HOCKEY

Plekanec and Czechs score win in exhibition

Tomas Plekanec banked a backhander off Connor Hellebuyck's pads with just over eight minutes remaining and the Czech Republic held off Team North America 3-2 in a World Cup of Hockey exhibition Wednesday.

North America — comprised of players 23 and under — overcame a 2-0 deficit to tie it midway through the third period on goals by Philadelphia Flyers defenceman Shayne Gostisbehere and Toronto Maple Leafs rookie Auston Matthews against Petr Mrazek.

In Pittsburgh

CZECH	N. AMERICA
3	2

Plekanec answered 53 seconds after Matthews' goal by taking a feed from Ales Hemsky from behind the net and knocking it off Hellebuyck's leg and over the goal-line for his third goal in as many exhibition games.

Ondrej Palat and Radek Faska also scored for the Czech Republic. Mrazek stopped 17 of the 19 shots he faced after coming in for Michal Neuvirth at the game's midway point.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Canada-Russia game on Wednesday night.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Late qualifiers keep momentum going

What a difference a day can make.

Ontarians Heather Bansley and Brandie Wilkerson breezed through their first pool match-up at the Swatch FIVB World Tour Finals, beating Italians Marta Menegatti and Laura Giombini 21-14, 21-12 on Wednesday.

Just 24 hours earlier, they had to win their country quota playoff to get into the tournament's main draw. Bansley and Wilkerson are now sitting pretty at Toronto's Polson Pier, where they can secure the top spot in Pool D with a win over Germans Julia Sude and Chantal Laboureur on Thursday.

In the men's draw, Olympic champs Alison Conte Cerutti and Bruno Oscar Schmidt of Brazil won their opening match 21-18, 21-15 over Alex Ranghieri and Adrian Carambula.

For scores and court schedules, go to swatchmajorseries.com. METRO

IN BRIEF

NHL to introduce concussion monitors

The NHL is revamping concussion monitoring for the upcoming season.

Deputy commissioner Bill Daly says the league will have four concussion spotters watching all games from a centralized location in either Toronto or New York, as well as spotters at each game to check for visible symptoms. Those spotters will have the authority to have players removed from games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Floro out as coach of men's national soccer team

Canadian soccer has claimed another coaching victim.

The Canadian Soccer Association dumped Benito Floro on Wednesday, opting not to renew his contract in the wake of Canada's most recent failed World Cup qualifying campaign.

Floro inherited a team ranked 88th in the world and 10th in CONCACAF. Canada is currently No. 100 in the world and No. 11 in CONCACAF.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NCAA

North Carolina loses more title contests

The Atlantic Coast Conference has followed the NCAA's lead and is removing all its athletic championships from North Carolina over a state law limiting protections for LGBTQ people.

The ACC Council of Presidents voted Wednesday to relocate the league's championships until North Carolina repeals the law. The decision includes 10 neutral site championships this academic school year, which means relocating the ACC football title game that was scheduled to be played in Charlotte in December.

No announcement was made on where the championship events will be held.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NO NATIONALS

On Monday, the NCAA said it was relocating seven of its championships scheduled to be played in the state.

Sporting's chance not taken in Madrid

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Los Blancos right ship late to avoid shock upset in opener

Cristiano Ronaldo and Alvaro Morata scored very late goals as Real Madrid came from behind to beat Sporting Lisbon 2-1 and avoid starting the defence of its Champions League title with a shock defeat on Wednesday.

Ronaldo equalized from an 89th minute free kick against his former club and Morata netted the winner deep in injury time to give the hosts a hard-fought victory in a match which Sporting had largely under control.

"I'm happy with the points. We suffered but never gave up," Real Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane said. "I don't know if the result was fair or not, but it's clear we believed. You have to play until the end. It wasn't a perfect match, you never see a perfect match, but the important thing was to win."

Real Madrid allowed its first Champions League goal at home since the 2014-15 semifinals. CURTO DE LA TORRE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Madrid, trying to become the first team to win back-to-back Champions League titles since the tournament's new format went into effect in the 1992-93 season, avoided what would have been only its second loss in 31 Champions League matches at home. It has won 27 times and drawn three at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Sporting was just a few minutes away from its first win in 11 matches in Spain in UEFA competitions.

Boosted by a loud visiting crowd, Sporting played well from the start, defending with efficiency and creating dangerous chances up front with well-timed counterattacks and accurate passing.

Bruno Cesar put the Portuguese side ahead only three minutes into the second half after Sergio Ramos and Luka Modric failed to clear, allowing the Brazilian midfielder to fire a left-footed shot into the far corner. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RESULTS

- **Man. City 4,** Borussia Mon. 0
- Bayer Lev. 2, CSKA Mos. 2
- Brugge 0, **Leicester 3**
- FC Porto 1, FC Cope. 1
- Juventus 0, Sevilla 0
- Legia Warsaw 0, **Borussia Dortmund 6**
- **Lyon 3,** Dinamo Zagreb 0
- **Real Madrid 2,** Sporting 1
- Tottenham 1, **Monaco 2**

PARALYMPICS

B.C. cyclist's win sets off golden day

Canadian cyclist Tristen Chernove is at his best when he's sailing along at 40 kilometres an hour.

Life is about as close as it can be to perfect.

The 41-year-old from Powell River, B.C., roared to gold in the time trial on Wednesday, for his third medal of the Paralympics, and one of five claimed by Canada's cycling team on the day.

And in the moments after the victory, Chernove talked about how para-cycling is helping him adapt to the ravages of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, and of that wonderful feeling of flying.

"It's totally freeing," Chernove said, with a wide grin. "Believe me, overcoming what some would consider limitations created by the disease is never on my mind. I'm just being an athlete, I'm just doing all I can."

Chernove raced to a time of 27 minutes 43.16 seconds to beat Ireland's Colin Lynch, who was second in the C2 category in 28:02.25.

The Canadian, who just joined the national team last year, also has a pair of medals from the track: a silver in the 3,000-metre individual pursuit, and bronze in the 1,000-metre time trial.

Tristen Chernove GETTY IMAGES

Chernove's win kicked off a spectacular day in the time trial for Canada. Ross Wilson of Sherwood Park, Alta., captured silver in the C1 category for his second medal in Rio, Charles Moreau of Victoriaville, Que., took bronze in the H3 class, Calgary's Michael Sametz took bronze in the men's C3 event, and Shelley Gautier of Niagara Falls, Ont., was third in the combined C1 and C2 race.

Chernove was a competitive paddler who took up cycling after being diagnosed with CMT, a degenerative disease that affects the peripheral nerves and causes the muscles to atrophy.

Cycling can't stop the degeneration of his lower legs and lower arms, Chernove said — it's the nature of the disease.

"I have to learn how to be OK with that," he said. "However, psychologically, to be fitter than I've been in my whole life feels wonderful." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RECIPE Fresh Tomato Spaghetti

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Scoop up all the local tomatoes you can find and make this quick and easy pasta dish.

Ready in 20 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 500 g package of whole-wheat spaghetti
- 3 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 2 cups fresh tomatoes, washed and chopped
- 1 head of arugula, washed and rough chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Put a big pot of well salted water on to boil.

2. In a sauté pan, bring the olive oil to low-medium heat.

3. Add garlic and allow to cook but not brown — just a couple of minutes. Take the pan off the heat.

4. Cook pasta according to package instructions. Scoop out a cup of water before draining. The starchy water is a great way to loosen up a too-thick sauce, plus it adds a certain slickness to your pastas.

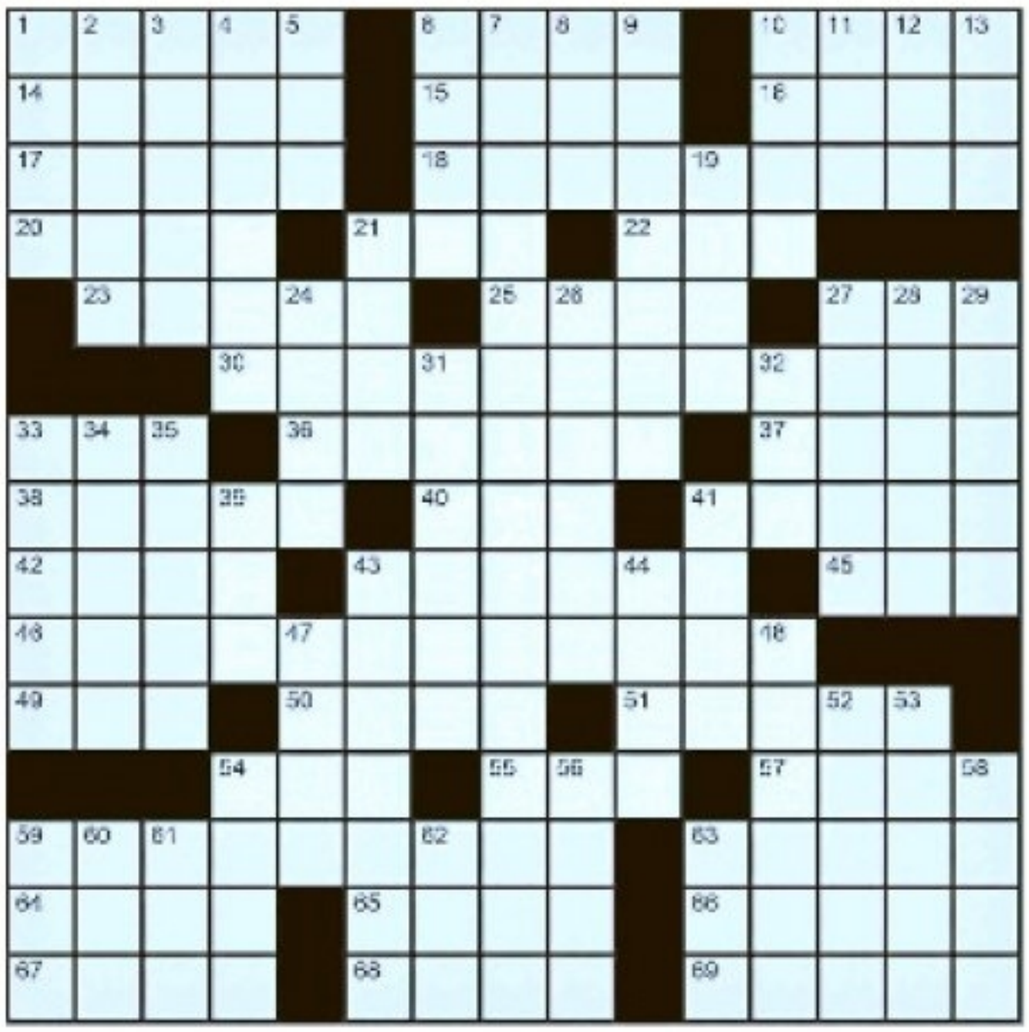
5. Drain noodles before tossing back in the pot. Add garlic-infused oil and vinegar and toss until all of the spaghetti is coated. Add tomatoes and toss again. Pour in cooking liquid, bit by bit, until your sauce is the desired consistency (you may not need much).

6. Throw in the arugula and give it another good mix so there are pieces of green throughout. Taste before adding a bit of salt and pepper.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Late
6. Transfixed
10. "Darn!"
14. Daisy type
15. Length measure
16. Irving Bacheller novel, _ Holden
17. Naomi Watts 2013 biopic
18. NHL goaltending great from Carman, Manitoba: 2 wds.
20. "_ the Explorer"
21. 'Cent' add-on (Man/horse creature)
22. Theory†of†Relativity brainiac ...his initials-sharers
23. Gladiator's 3,600
25. Eight, in Latin
27. Corn-eater's cast off
30. 1970s TV drama starring the Melfort, Saskatchewan born actor at #7-Down, "_ _, Counselor at Law"
33. "The X Files" actor ...his initials-sharers
36. Steal
37. Scandinavian story
38. Major upsets
40. 'Block' suffix
41. Faded jean areas
42. Take apart
43. Excoriate
45. AC/DC song
46. Vintage records purchaser's interest: 2 wds.
49. Swine spot
50. Mouth off
51. Clark _ (Jennifer Grey's actor hubby)
54. Cleveland NBA-er
55. Treasure Island author's monogram
57. Dismounted
59. Quebec City attraction, Le Chateau _
63. "Well done!"
64. Archaeological discovery
65. Actress Tara
66. Astronaut Neil Armstrong's middle name
67. Daughter, e.g., on a family tree
68. Lacking
69. Funny Canadian Mike

DOWN
1. "Hello It's Me" by _ Rundgren
2. Self-evident truth
3. Fortify once more
4. Bundle of energy
5. Posh positive
6. Andre _ (Dutch violinist/conductor)
7. Sci-Fi thriller of 1971 starring Canadian actor Arthur Hill based on Michael Crichton's 1969 breakout novel, with The: 2 wds.
8. Banned pollutant, commonly
9. Stage star's site
10. Li'l word meanings
11. Blood-typing letters
12. Modern, in Germany
13. "Welcome to the Jungle" rock gr.
19. Zodiac's roarers
21. Banda _ (City in Sumatra in Indonesia)
24. ABC's ballroom show
26. Legendary talk show host Dick
27. Military trainee
28. Of the distant past
29. Explosion emanation!
31. B-vitamin family member
32. She-chicken
33. Plays like Neil Peart
34. Tim Hortons snack
35. Dishwatery
39. You: French
41. Simple Minds singer Jim
43. Remington electric grooming products
44. Harleys, to bikers
47. 'Pluto' suffix
48. Medical chekup frequency
52. Open space in a wooded area
53. Bestower
54. "Squawk Box" network
56. Flat-screen TVs, e.g.
58. Weight units, US-style
59. Flower delivery co.
60. Kind of deer
61. Mantric syllables
62. PBS funding org.
63. Slamming noise!

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You might be doing a slow boil about something because silly errors at work make you impatient. Nevertheless, by sounding off, you will gain nothing, and you might make things worse!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
A discussion about shared property will meet with resistance from someone else today. This is a poor day to ask for a loan or mortgage or for a favour from someone.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Relations with parents, bosses and authority figures will be challenging at some point today. That's why life might feel hard. "Nobody loves me." (Relax. This is a fleeting thing.)

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Teachers and anyone involved in medicine and the law might be difficult to deal with today. In fact, avoid subjects like politics, religion and racial issues, because they will be too difficult to discuss.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
If you are talking about loans, mortgages and shared property today, you will meet with obstacles. Someone in authority will not approve. Choose another day!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your relations with close friends and partners are difficult today, because there seems to be a lack of emotional flexibility. Someone might even be depressed. Don't take this personally.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is not the day to ask your boss or a co-worker for help. Their response will be, "Talk to the hand." (Oops.)

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Children might be an increased responsibility today. Just accept this because, hey, it goes with the territory. Don't try to change rules in sports today

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is not the day to ask a parent or someone in a position of authority in the family for help. They will not be receptive. Just bide your time and wait for another day.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Everyone is a bit negative today. It's not just you. Don't take it personally and do not react.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a poor day for financial decisions because someone will block what you want to do. Choose another day. Timing is everything.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Today the Moon is opposite your sign and at odds with stern Saturn. That's why it is difficult to get along with others. (It's not just you.)

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

							2	7
		6		8	3	4		
	9		6			7		
	6	7	8	1	5	2	3	
		8			9		1	
		3	4	7		8		
5	1							

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Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

7	4	3	1	6	9	2	5	8
1	5	9	2	4	8	7	3	6
2	6	8	3	5	7	4	1	9
9	3	7	8	1	5	6	4	2
6	8	1	7	2	4	3	9	5
4	2	5	9	3	6	1	8	7
3	7	2	5	8	1	9	6	4
8	1	4	6	9	2	5	7	3
5	9	6	4	7	3	8	2	1

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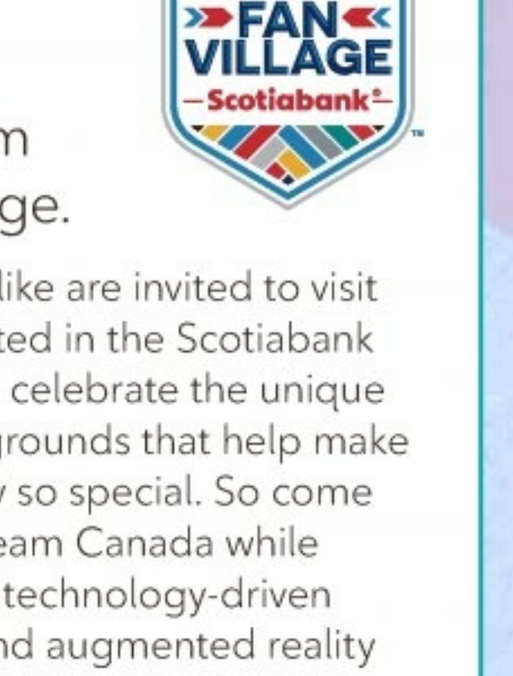

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Jason M
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